

REMARKS

In the office action of April 20, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,528,297 to Seegert, et al. Claims 1-20 have been cancelled and new claims 21-37 are submitted herewith for further prosecution on the merits.

In the office action, the examiner alleges that Seegert teaches a combination video camera/projector system for imaging an object in a first mode and projecting an image in a second mode.

It is respectfully submitted, that Seegert teaches changing from camera capabilities to projector capabilities and vice versa by mechanical means, i.e., by moving mechanically respective optical components from/to a respective optical path. For instance, in connection with embodiments shown in Figs. 1 and 2 it is taught that a sensor 14 and a light source 16 are pivoted out of a path of the beam of an objective 25 (column 2, line 62 - column 3, line 3), in order to realize a changeover from camera capabilities shown to Fig. 1 to projector capability shown in Fig. 2. This pivoting action is also taught in connection with the embodiments shown in Figs. 15 to 18. There, a mirror 67 is provided which is folded back and forth in order to change between the camera capabilities and the projector capabilities. See column 8, line 36 - column 9, line 24.

Applicants respectfully submit that new independent claim 21 recites a common polarization selective beam splitter device 20 which is provided in the optical paths and located between said optical objective arrangement 10 and the image sensor means 40 on the one hand and between the optical objective arrangement 10 and the illumination unit 50 on the other hand. This arrangement allows for the coupling of light for the real object image OI from the optical objective arrangement 10 and the image sensor means 40 in the first imaging mode and for the coupling of light for the display image DI from said illumination unit 50 to the optical objective

arrangement 10 in the second imaging mode. Thus, the device of the present invention can be transformed from camera to projector substantially without the mechanical movement of any components.

It is respectfully submitted, that such a feature combination and in particular the provision of a common polarization selective beam splitter device 20 is not taught by those portions of Seegert relied upon by the Examiner.

The common polarization selective beam splitter device 20 and its functionality are described in original Figs. 1 to 7 and on page 5, line 28 to page 6, line 9 of the description of the preferred embodiments of the present invention. Accordingly no new matter has been added by these new claims.

In the event that the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where in the reference, there is the bases for a contrary view.

The Examiner has apparently made of record, but not applied, several documents. The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's implicit finding that these documents, whether considered alone or in combination with others, do not render the claims of the present application unpatentable.

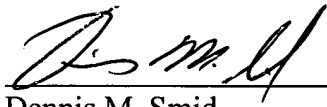
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 21-37 of the present invention are patentable over the prior art, and early and favorable consideration thereof is solicited.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith to
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Respectfully submitted,

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